

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River District State Parks

Volume XXX, Number 2, Summer 2015

The Steward Ship ~ Grooviest & Greenest

April Moran-Reza, Outreach Coordinator



Last summer, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods embarked on a project that is now picking up steam! Our 2014 summer newsletter featured the purchase of a white Step Van that was generously funded by the Dean Witter Foundation. The dream behind the purchase was to launch a marine education center on wheels. Christopher Lods, a local artist, brought the clean slated van to life, designing a graphic which seamlessly combined our native redwood forest, watershed and ocean ecology. Once “wrapped” with the educational graphic, the Mobile Marine Van genuinely emanated the spirit of The Steward Ship, a term coined by Stewards naturalist, Mike Roa.



Like any dream, this project was buoyed by volunteers who were excited about doing something inspiring. Once staff members David Berman and Pete Bidigare made a call to have all hands on deck, The Marine Team emerged. Volunteers such as Jeffery Reyes, Joan Bacci, Mike Roa, Cindy Gillease and Elizabeth Vega came together to discuss curriculum ideas, plan school and event visits, while offering input as the Mobile Marine Education Program continued to cruise full and by.

The Steward Ship has anchored down at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds for the Bay Area Science Fair, the Parade of Lights in Guerneville, Park Advocacy Day in Sacramento, Earth Day at College Oaks Montessori School, Monte Rio and Montgomery Schools, Steelhead Festival, Fish Fest, Day under the Oaks and Lincoln Head Start. Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers and Place-Based Program students, The Steward Ship won the “Grooviest and Greenest” award at the Stumptown Daze Parade! To catch The Steward Ship in action, join us at our Family Day event on July 11th, as well as the June 28th Marine Sanctuary celebration in Gualala.

The first mates who helped set sail to this program are Cindy Gillease and Elizabeth Vega, both of whom are naturalists, and Place-Based Program instructors for Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. The most popular activities brought to you by The Steward Ship include tide pool simulation, and a decomposition timeline, initiated by Mike Roa. Many schools do not have the opportunity of visiting the ocean for a tide pool outing, and as Cindy stated in an interview, “We see the need, and we take the “ocean” to them.”



Mission

Stewards Promotes, Restores, and Protects Your State Parks.

Vision

Stewards is the Link between People and Their Parks.

State Parks

Armstrong Redwoods State Nat. Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area
Sonoma Coast State Park

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430
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www.stewardscr.org

During the tide pool simulation, students consider elements that may be found along the rocky shoreline of our coast. After a brief lesson, students are encouraged to create their own tide pool using rocks as a base, transparent blue stones as water, real non-living animals such as seashells, black turban snail shells, dried sea stars, mussel shells and shore crabs – all of which fit into shoe-size transparent bins. They can also include tiny toy sea lions and harbor seals, octopi and green plastic sea weed, as well as real salt to give their blue stones a salt water effect. Students get a sense of the diverse ecology of tide pool life and can analyze the specific adaptations made for tide pool survival.

The decomposition timeline focuses on marine debris that is being found more readily in our oceans. Micro trash - or microplastic - is becoming an increasing problem for marine life. You may have heard of a garbage patch the size of Texas floating between California and Hawaii, but micro trash refers to debris small enough to be ingested

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by marine life, such as albatross that are found with bundles of fishing line in their stomachs. The decomposition timeline allows students to select trash including Styrofoam cups, plastic cups, glass bottles, diapers, fishing line, orange peels and apple cores from a bucket. Students then hang individual trash across a timeline according to how many months or years they think it takes for this trash to decompose. After students hang up items, they sit for a lesson. As items are moved to the correct

spot along the timeline, students discuss why it takes longer or shorter periods of time for each item to decompose. The decomposition timeline gives students an idea of how everyday trash doesn't just go away after being placed into garbage, recycle or compost bins. All items take time to break down, some even more than a million years!

The Marine Team is looking for prize crew members to be a part of the voyage! Because The Mobile Marine Education Program aspires to provide many interactive hands on activities, there is a need for volunteers who can keep a watchful eye and ask open ended question that spread awareness and education about marine biodiversity. Volunteers can assist with driving the van, along with setting up and breaking down workshop activities. If you'd like to share your ideas, we welcome you to join the curriculum development team! As of now, blueprints for the interior design of the van are currently being discussed and planned for completion by the end of summer, so feel free to jump aboard! Help Stewards reach the ultimate goal of creating a state-of-the-art Mobile Marine Education Center that will make a splash where ever it goes!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Michele Luna, Stewards Executive Director

With school coming to a close, our busy spring providing programs for thousands of school children has transitioned to a summer schedule. I believe this has been one of busiest spring seasons on record, which we can attribute to the amazing weather we had, sadly lacking in rain.

Personally, I am happy the gloomy, foggy mornings have made way for warmer ones this week. Just in time for the beginning of our Special Event season with Art in the Park coming up quickly on June 20th, followed by Family Day in your Park on July 11th, Sunset Dinner on August 1st and the Old Grove Festival on September 19th. Each of these events provides much needed funding to support our program activities throughout the year. We hope you can attend one of more of them.

Volunteers are needed to help with all of these events. We use Signup Genius, an online volunteer management tool to help with scheduling. If you haven't gotten the link to sign-up please email stewards@stewardscr.org and we will be pleased to provide you with the link to signup.

The board and some staff went on an informative field trip to Calaveras Big Trees, where we visited their new Visitor Center (VC) and learned how that process worked for the Cooperating Association that supports that park. Their VC is lovely, as is the park itself, with its magnificent *Sequoia gigantea*. Despite some rainy weather we were able to squeeze in some hiking as well.

Another new project on the horizon is the renovation of the Jenner Visitor Center (VC). The board has made a commitment to assist in raising capital funds to help with replacing the roof, siding, windows and doors and the back deck. Because we see this as phased project with the ultimate goal of raising the building, we are being strategic in planning the project so funding will be well spent. To help with decision-making, State Parks and Stewards hosted a community meeting on Thursday, June 12th, from 9-11 am at the Jenner VC. We will keep you updated through our E-newsletter.

In closing, I want to thank our amazing staff and board members for their inspirational dedication to our work. I feel so lucky to work with such high caliber individuals.

Enjoy your parks this summer! They have so much to offer.

NEW STATE PARK DIRECTOR

Governor Brown finally appointed Lisa Mangat as the new Director for California State Parks on April 30, 2015. She served as Acting Director since July 3, 2014 and prior to that as the Special Assistant to the Director of State Parks since October 2013. She brings expertise in the area of finance to the Department from when she served as a Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst at the Legislative Analyst's Office. We look forward to supporting her efforts to move the department forward.

AUSTIN CREEK OPERATIONS FIELD STAFF



Scott Lawyer started out as a custom iron fabricator. After 19 years, he was granted the opportunity to retrain and begin again as structural geologist. Along the path he had been a set designer/builder for several local theater companies. In 2007 he began training as a docent naturalist. By 2011, he started teaching as an environmental educator full time, along with facilitating high rope challenge courses. To round out his experiences, he began as the **Field Operations Manager** at Stewards in the fall of 2014. It is safe to say he loves working outdoors in nature. Scott lives in Santa Rosa with his beautiful wife Wendy, and their three cats, Sophie, Popcorn, and Olivia.

Yana Magruder joined Stewards as a **Service Aide** in the beginning of this year, the month of February. She is a newcomer to Sonoma County. After Graduating Sacramento State she worked for the State Assembly for almost a year before moving to Forestville with her husband and their cat Baldr. Yana loves the outdoors and all that comes with it (minus the ticks, those creep her out). When visiting the park don't hesitate to chat with her, she will spin a tale or two.



Craig Wilkinson has been a local resident of the Russian River since 1995 and feels like Armstrong Redwoods is part of his backyard. He graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College in 2000 with a degree in Horticulture and a Certificate in Landscape Management. Craig enjoys hiking, biking and kayaking. Craig started as a **Service Aide** with the Ops Team this Spring 2015. Unfortunately a photo of Craig was not available at press time.



Trevor Moore is a recent graduate of Humboldt State University, where he earned a degree in Geography and Geology. He loves camping and hiking and dodging feisty rattlesnakes in the backcountry. This is his first season working for Stewards, and he loves his job as a **Service Aide**. He is working toward a career in park service.

NEW INTERPRETIVE PANELS INSTALLED BY YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Stewards has recently completed two of its interpretive panel projects with the installation of four new interpretive panels. The Willow Creek panel was installed near the State Park maintenance facility on Willow Creek Road. It depicts the many years of work dedicated to restoring the Willow Creek watershed and acknowledges the partnership that made it all possible. The other three panels describe the Harbor Seal haulout at the Russian River mouth and were funded by the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee and were installed at the Jenner Overlook (thanks to CalTrans), at Goat Rock State Beach and at the Jenner Visitor Center boat launch.

"One of the joys of volunteering for me is working with students like those from the Lawrence E. Jones Middle School Expeditionary Learning Program on a service project. This project was no "make work" project designed for children. The students tackled a very difficult job that would have normally been done by trained Park Maintenance workers or experienced Trail Crew volunteers. The challenge was installing two interpretative panels in the Willow Creek watershed and at the Jenner overlook. They worked hard and smart while singing and sharing the work. It was a pleasure to work with them, leaving me feeling that, with these students, our future is truly in good hands." ~Bill Bambrick, Trail Crew Volunteer Coordinator



PROGRAM UPDATES

WHALE WATCH

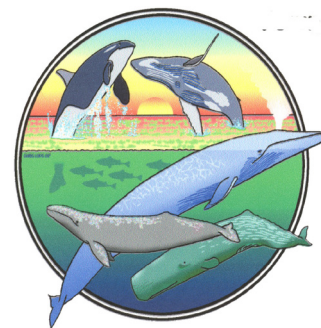
What a fantastic whale watch season we are having this year, starting with many whale sightings on their southward migration and now during their northward swim.

The last couple of weekends in April and now in May we have had many mothers/calves close in, taking their time and putting on a show with the calves trying out their strength and trying out breaching, to the delight of our volunteers as well as all the visitors.

This is the tail end of our 2015 migration as we end our stay at Bodega Head the first weekend of June. According to all the information from Southern California (where they do official counts) there have been many more Gray whales counted and seen during this year's migration - both heading south and north.

We are privileged to have so many great and dedicated volunteers helping out with talking to all the visitors at the Head. (Editors Note: Special thanks to Bea for heading up another successful WW season and to Norma Jellison, Ronnee Rubin and Colleen and Rich Draffin for providing some additional help this year).

Bea Brunn, Whale Mother



STANBRIDGE ACADEMY AT POMO CANYON

David Berman, Programs Director

From April 22 to 24, Stewards' program staff had a fabulous adventure with Stanbridge Academy students at Pomo Canyon Campground. This amazing group of high school students hiked the Pomo trail from Shell Beach, went tide pooling, and experienced rock climbing at Sunset Rocks with the help of the Vertex climbing gym staff. We camped at Pomo Canyon Campground for 3 days. Stanbridge Academy is a K-12 school for children with mild to moderate learning disabilities, as well as for students struggling with communication and pragmatic language skills.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD ACCOUNTS OF VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

"A highlight for me was a little 6-year-old girl saying "This beach rocks! Thank you" and she reached up to give me a hug."

Hollis Bewley, Tide Pool Ed Docent, Madrone School, 1st Graders, Campbell Cove, 4/23/15

"A young couple, who'd been sitting at that bench looking toward Bodega Rock came up and I asked them if they'd seen the Whale mom and calves I was watching there. They hadn't. So I pointed them out and they got very excited. They stood with me for quite some time and we ended up seeing a whole pod ... ~ 6-7 with babies just lingering in the area just west of Bodega Rock. I came away feeling very grateful for having had the opportunity to share it all with them."

Tamara Miller, Seabird Monitoring Volunteer 5/19/15



"We had a good time yesterday. Alan gave a great intro before starting down (to the beach), and the kids responded with their ocean safety song... We had the beach to ourselves - 66 children, 3 teachers and umpteen grownups. Grownups were knowledgeable about ocean life and the kids were respectful. Among many, many crabs, snails and a few sculpins we saw a grown (dead) octopus being ingested by a large green anemone, and found two ochre sea stars (only 3" but seemingly healthy) and one young sea urchin. Bill braved the incoming tide and slippery rocks to return the collected animals to their homes. Hope to see all of you again soon."

Sukey Robb-Wilder, Tide Pool Docent, Yulupa School - 3rd Grade Classes, Shell Beach 4/24/15

Upcoming Events ~ Celebrating 30 Years of Volunteerism

Art in the Park

June 20, 2015, 12-5 pm
Armstrong Redwoods SNR
Art Exhibit and Sale, Premium
Wine/Beer Tasting, Entertainment



FREE Parking and Shuttle service on
Armstrong Woods Road - Watch for Signs

Family Day in Your Park Dia de la Familia en Su Parque

July 11, 2015 ~ 12-5 pm



Activities • Food • Music
Speakers • Auction

Sunset Dinner
Austin Creek SRA
August 1, 2015
5:00 pm



Benefit for Pond Farm
Tour, Dinner,
Wine Pairings, Auction

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED email stewards@stewardscr.org • INFO/TICKETS ON OUR WEBSITE: www.stewardscr.org

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

Mammals of Austin Creek: Who's eating who.	June 13th & July 18th
Reptiles and Amphibians: What the difference?	June 20th & July 25th
Cycles, Cycles, Cycles: Air, Water, Rock	June 27th & Aug 1st
Plants, Wildflowers, and Pollinators	July 4th & Aug 8th
Adaptions and Connections	July 11th & Aug, 15th

**All programs will take place at Bullfrog Pond Campground in
Austin Creek State Recreation Area from 10 to 11:30 am.**

Email scott@stewardscr.org for more information

Old Grove Festival

Armstrong Redwoods Historic Forest Theater
September 19, 2015

"Pickin' in the Redwoods"
with Hot Buttered Rum &
One Grass Two Grass



Tickets on Sale Now

SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Jayne Hawkley is the Spa Director at Boon Hotel and a local resident of Pocket Canyon. She is also a graduate of the California Naturalist course, which was offered by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods this past Spring. Before registering for the course, Jayne noticed that if she were to become a member of Stewards, she would receive a \$100 discount off the course. When Jayne received her official membership card in the mail it came with a short letter listing the membership benefits she was entitled to. The light bulb went on, and Jayne thought...this could work into something more.

The California Naturalist course requires every student to complete a Capstone Project to be eligible for graduation. Jayne was inspired to initiate the Sustainable Partnership Program, which focuses on promoting awareness, education and financial support between Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and the local community. Any membership level to Stewards will grant donors a Stewards Membership Card. This card will award members with a discount of 10-20% at participating businesses, creating a "win-win" situation and stimulating collaborative conservation. This sustainable partnership will increase revenue for Stewards and local businesses, while equally supporting efforts to increase awareness and educational opportunities for the general public.

Fueled by her passion for nature, Jayne has now recruited a dozen local businesses who will be participating in the Sustainable Partnership Program. She hopes this project will inspire others to use their purchasing power in a way that will benefit our State Parks and expand educational opportunities.

We would like to invite local businesses to participate in this collaborative partnership. Stewards will very soon announce the effective date of the program and is planning to launch a webpage on our site, which will include more information about the Sustainable Partnership Program and our local business partners. Stay tuned!

For question and information about the Sustainable Partnership Program, please contact April Reza at 707.869.9177 Ext. 6# or april@stewardscr.org



of the Coast and Redwoods
www.stewardscr.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Call the Stewards office:
869-9177 x1# or email
pete@stewardscr.org

Program Activities Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Staffing
Friends of Armstrong
Redwoods
Docent Tour Guides
Trail Maintenance
Habitat Restoration Project
Pond Farm Interest Group

Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tidepool Programs
Watershed Programs
Environmental Living Prog.
Sonoma Coast Stewardship
Pinniped Monitoring
Seabird Monitoring

Other Projects

Office Help & Special Events

Volunteer Program Coordinators

Joyce Bacci, ARVC
Doris Dickenson, FAR
Laura Parent, Pond Farm
Linda Fisher, Jenner VC
Jim Fleming, Seal Watch
Bea Brunn, Whale Watch
Suzanne Abrams, ELP
Cindy Gillease, Willow
Creek Education Program
Bill Bambrick, Sonoma Coast
Water Quality Monitoring
Trail Crew
The Sorensons, Marine
Debris & Beach Cleanups
Hollis & Jerry Bewley,
Tidepool Programs
Hollis Bewley,
Seabird Monitoring
Louise Patterson, MAU
Mark Anderson, Foot Patrol

FROM THE FOREST TO THE SEA

Bill Nay "Father Nayture", Docent

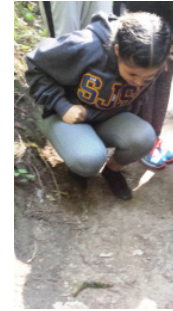
There has been talk about a new slogan, "From the Forest to the Sea" and I have found the concept aligned with my holistic approach to my interpretive hikes. While I enjoy the uniqueness of the redwoods, I always find myself looking at the entire landscape. The beauty of the whole



Earth from the grandeur of the redwood forest; to the majestic grass savannahs and Oak woodlands of Austin Creek; to the quiet rippling waters of the Willow Creek watershed; and then out the Russian River to the stunning Sonoma Coast and its host of beaches and cliffs. "The peacefulness and serenity that one experiences when being among these giants is mind blowing." ~ Maria Mariscal

I decided to rescue a group of San Jose State University Justice Studies Honor students from their midterm exams and busy schedules. Seventeen students, and their faculty advisor, from Iota Chapter, Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society had just returned from a National Conference where they had earned 8 awards for their campaign to raise awareness for Human Trafficking. They needed a break to get grounded, and none of them had ever been to Armstrong Redwoods or the Sonoma Coast.

"I had a great time at Shell Beach and Bodega Head, learning about the whale migratory patterns and the different rock compositions lending



themselves to different sand compositions. I would love to explore these areas again sometime!" ~ Casey Whelan

I invited them on a trip from the "Forest to the Sea." We started out at Armstrong Redwoods and went on an interpretive hike along the Pioneer Trail. We learned that the

integrative teamwork that led to the Iota Chapters success was very much like the symbiotic integration of the redwoods with the flora and fauna around them. The tall trees reach up and grasp the incoming fog and provide much needed water to the understory, which in turn returns nourishment to the intertwined roots. These college scholars were just as excited about finding a Banana Slug as a class of 1st graders!

"The Sonoma County coast is breathtaking and amazing. I hope to get the opportunity to return and explore Bodega Bay, in order to learn more about its history. My favorite part was the oreo cookie simulation of Earth's tectonic plate movement." ~ Maria Mariscal



We stopped at Shell Beach and discovered the mélange of rocks from subduction and transform plate movements, which created equally diverse sand. We then drove south to Bodega Harbor and crossed from the North American Plate over to the Pacific Plate and went up to Bodega Head.

They found the sand, which eroded primarily from granite, was much different. We did not stay long enough to see any of the whales migrating north, but many of them indicated they would be back to spend more time at each of the locations we visited.

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For information on contributing to Stewards' Endowments please contact Michele Luna (707) 869-9177 X4# michele@stewardscr.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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RENEWAL

YES, I'd like to become a member.

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Individual \$30.00
Family \$45.00
Contributing \$100.00
Sustaining \$150.00
Business \$150.00
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I'd like to help with an additional donation of \$_____

Payment type: Check Charge Card Visa MC Total tax deductible donation \$_____

Make check payable to Stewards. Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Annual Renewal Date: February 1 Signature: _____

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With your help, future generations will enjoy the State Parks in the Russian River District, including education and stewardship programs supported by Stewards. A gift to Stewards is a rewarding form of giving from your estate. There are several types of charitable bequests by will (or beneficiary designation).

Sample:

I hereby give and bequeath to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California, with a principal address at P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430, _____ percent of my estate, (or) the sum of _____ dollars, (or) the following assets _____, Tax ID # _____ provided upon request. Contact your legal advisor for further information. There are also other planned giving options for your consideration.